

When Director Ruben Grijalva presented Dee Tokimitsu with a certificate acknowledging her appointment to the assistant deputy director, OSFM Programs & Administration position he said, "Dee has been looking out for me even before I knew her." He was referring to the endless dedication that he has come to value so much from his loyal assistant.

By appointing Tokimitsu to this position, then Acting State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan was also acknowledging and rewarding her long hours and hard work in support of the department's recent evolution.

"I see my job as supporting project management and assisting in any way, Chiefs Grijalva and Dargan to implement their vision of where the department and its programs are going."

Tokimitsu has been in state service for 28 years, primarily in Human Resources/Personnel and Equal Employment Opportunity/Recruitment. She started with CAL FIRE in 1989 as an Associate Personnel Analyst and worked her way up through the ranks. She came to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in 2002 where she served as Chief of Administrative Services.

In her current position, the hours can be long but she says they are worth it. She is usually the last one to leave the Sacramento office, but she says she is not the only

one working late. "The OSFM staff is very dedicated and truly enjoy their jobs." She is happy to be available to guide staff as they carry out their duties within the structure of CAL FIRE and the OSFM.

Assistant Deputy Director, State Fire Marshal Administrative Programs and Support

Dee Tokimitsu

*By Karen Terrill, communications officer,
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"Having been with CAL FIRE for most of my career, and having served as the Ombudsperson to the State Fire Marshal's Office staff in the 1995 consolidation, I find it gratifying to watch the State Fire Marshal's office coming together with CAL FIRE in a fully integrated work force."

Most people make resolutions one

year at a time. Tokimitsu, however looks at her life one decade at a time. For the upcoming decade, Dee plans to focus on how she can contribute to her community. She says she is impressed with many of the social programs she has observed in San Francisco where she visits her son, and would like to see Sacramento, "emulate their passion and commitment."

Tokimitsu has been mentoring others for years. Many of those she assisted are now in positions of authority and are mentoring others. She is especially cognizant of cultural differences and served and consulted on recruitment and hiring teams to provide sensitivity and diversity training from the early 1980s through the 1990s. "Having been raised in an extended family with my grandfather being the authority figure, I am thankful for all the values and character building he instilled. The two most important were loyalty to family and friends and to demonstrate the utmost respect for elders and persons of authority."

Dee has two adult children; a son Joel and daughter Marni. She has been married to her husband Doug for 42 years who retired from the Department of Justice in 1998. They live in the foothills outside of Sacramento with their 17-year-old cockatiel, Larry Bird.